

the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-5704.

Done at Washington, DC, on: October 6, 1999.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-26733 Filed 10-13-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

East Kentucky Power Cooperative, Inc., Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is issuing an environmental assessment with respect to the potential environmental impacts related to the addition of an 80 megawatt combustion turbine in Clark County, Kentucky. RUS may provide financing assistance to East Kentucky Power Cooperative for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Quigel, Environmental Protection Specialist, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-0468. Bob's e-mail address is bquigel@rus.usda.gov. Information is also available from Jeff Hohman, Environmental Manager, East Kentucky Power Cooperative, P.O. Box 707, Winchester, Kentucky 40392-0707, telephone (606) 744-4812.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project consists of the construction of an additional 80 megawatt combustion turbine at East Kentucky Power Cooperative's Smith Combustion Turbine Site located approximately 9 miles southeast of Winchester, Kentucky. There are 3, 100 megawatt combustion turbines currently in operation at the site. The additional unit will be constructed next to the 3 existing units.

East Kentucky Power Cooperative prepared an environmental report for RUS which describes the project and assesses its environmental impacts. RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental report and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. This environmental report will serve as RUS' environmental assessment of the project. No significant impacts are

expected as a result of the construction of the project.

The environmental assessment can be reviewed at the Clark County Public Library, 370 South Burns Avenue, Winchester, Kentucky, telephone (606) 744-5661, the headquarters of East Kentucky Power Cooperative, 4775 Lexington Road, Winchester, Kentucky, or the headquarters of RUS, at the address provided above.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for at least 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by the 7 CFR part 1794, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

Dated: October 6, 1999.

Glendon D. Deal,

Acting Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff.

[FR Doc. 99-26730 Filed 10-13-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce (DoC) has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35).

Agency: Patent and Trademark Office (PTO).

Title: Rules for Patent Maintenance Fees.

Form Numbers: PTO/SB/45/47/65/66.

Agency Approval Number: 0651-0016.

Type of Request: Reinstatement, with change, of a previously approved collection for which approval has expired.

Burden: 26,099 hours annually.

Number of Respondents: 326,101 responses annually.

Avg. Hours Per Response: Based on estimates and knowledge of the forms, the PTO estimates the burden hours required by the public to gather, prepare and submit Maintenance Fee Transmittal Form PTO/SB/45 and "Fee Address" Indication Form PTO/SB/47 to be five minutes each. In the electronic version, it is estimated that it will take

10 seconds to enter the Patent Number and Serial Number to retrieve payment information and 10 seconds to select the fee codes to be paid if the patentee wishes to pay for the maintenance fee, for a total of 20 seconds. Petition to Accept Unavoidably Delayed Payment of Maintenance Fee in an Expired Patent Form PTO/SB/65 and Petition to Accept Unintentionally Delayed Payment of Maintenance Fee in an Expired Patent Form PTO/SB/66 are estimated to take one hour each to complete.

Needs and Uses: The identification of the application number and the patent number, the maintenance fee amount, and the surcharge amount on forms POT/SB/45 and PTO/SB/47 will be used by the PTO to record the payment of maintenance fees in order to keep the patents in force. The information will be used to prepare a receipt for the patentee and to determine whether or not a maintenance fee has been paid in response to any inquiry from the public. The optional information of the payment year and the small entity status are necessary to determine the amount of the maintenance fee due.

The use of forms PTO/SB/65 and PTO/SB/66 readily and conveniently indicates to the PTO that the required elements for the filing of petitions under 37 CFR 1.378(b) or (c) have or have not been submitted. For example, the above forms include the verified statement and appropriate check boxes (list) for indicating that the required items have been attached to the petition form, such as the maintenance fee, small entity status, reason for unintentional or unavoidable delay, and surcharge. The top of the form indicates a space for the patent number and issue date, and the application number and corresponding filing date. This identifying information assists the Office in matching the fee with the appropriate patent.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, business or other for-profit institutions, not-for-profit institutions, and the Federal government.

Frequency: Three (3) times; once every four years for payment of maintenance fees and on occasion for petitions to reinstate an expired patent (unintentional or unavoidable).

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

OMB Desk Officer: Peter Weis, (202) 395-3630.

Copies of the above information collection proposal can be obtained by calling or writing Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, (202) 482-3272, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington,